

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 11623 210750Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 210650Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6716

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11623

NODIS

EYES ONLY HABIB FROM SULLIVAN

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, OVIQ (FORD, GERALD R.)

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT OF PRESIDENT FORD TO PHILIPPINES

1. DURING SENATOR MANSFIELD'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS, LATTER ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD HAD FIRMLY SCHEDULED HIS TRIP TO CHINA. MANSFIELD REPLIED THAT TRIP WAS ON, NO FIRM DATE HAD BEEN SET, BUT NO OTHER STOPS HAD BEEN ARRANGED. SENATOR SAID HE KNEW PRESIDENT FORD HAD PHILIPPINES FIRMLY IN MIND AS ONE OF POTENTIAL STOPS.

2. ROMULO THEN TURNED TO ME TO ASK WHETHER I HAD MADE ANY SUGGESTIONS ABOUT SUCH A VISIT. I SAID I HAD RECOMMENDED THAT PRESIDENT FORD COME TO MANILA (THIS IS FIRST TIME I HAVE TOLD THIS TO GOP). MARCOS THEN SAID HE WOULD WARMLY WELCOME SUCH A VISIT.

3. AS YOU KNOW, SENATOR IS SEEING PRESIDENT FORD IN MONTANA THIS WEEKEND AND HAS TOLD ME HE WILL RELAY MARCOS INVITATION, ADDING HIS OWN STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF A VISIT HERE.

4. AS THIS PROJECT MATURES, I HOPE YOU WILL BEAR IN MIND FACT THAT ASEAN SUMMIT IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FIRST WEEK DECEMBER. I AM SURE BOTH MARCOS AND SUHARTO WOULD PREFER TO SEE PRESIDENT PRIOR TO ASEAN SUMMIT AND WOULD
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ARRANGE ITS POSTPONEMENT IF THERE IS SCHEDULING CONFLICT.

HOWEVER, IT WILL PROVE AWKWARD, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE ASEAN
CHIEFS NOT VISITED, IF SUMMIT HAS TO BE POSTPONED BECAUSE
OF PRESIDENT FORD'S SCHEDULE.

5. THEREFORE, THE EARLIER WE CAN GET A FIRM DATE FOR
VISITS TO MANILA AND JAKARTA THE BETTER, SO THAT ASEAN
SUMMIT CAN BE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED AFTER THE VISITS RATHER
THAN FIRMLY FIXED AND THEN RESCHEDULED.
SULLIVAN

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